



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOW AVAILABLE

BLOOMINGTON’s Comprehensive Plan 2008 was recently updated and is available for download on the City’s website.

The plan expresses where the city is today and where it desires to be in the future, with recommendations on actions needed to reach future goals. The plan is a guide to decision-making and a foundation for more detailed planning efforts.

The Comprehensive Plan is not a fixed document, but rather part of an ongoing planning and implementation process. The City maintains an up-to-date version of the Comprehensive Plan on its website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

A hard copy of the latest version is also available for purchase at the Planning Division, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call Planning at 952-563-8920.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

THINKING AHEAD



Leaving cars unattended with the keys in the ignition is an open invitation to criminals. Although it may be tempting, especially on cold and snowy days, remember never to leave your vehicle running unattended, even if it’s just warming up in your driveway.

Here are some more auto prevention tips from Chief Potts:

- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Never leave extra keys hidden in your car.
- Don’t mark your keychain with your name or license number as lost keys could lead a thief right to your car.
- Close windows and lock all doors.
- Use anti-theft precautions and alarm systems.

For more information, call Bloomington Police at 952-563-4900.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AUTO THEFT.

CRIME ON WHEELS PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAR

AVEHICLE IS STOLEN every 19 seconds every day of the year in the United States. Bicycle, snowmobile, camper and other vehicle thefts are also on the rise. Yet many of these thefts are completely preventable. According to Bloomington Police Chief Jeffrey Potts, a large number of stolen vehicles are left unlocked or with keys in the ignition. In 2009, as of September 1, 50 out of 99 reported stolen vehicles in Bloomington had keys left inside them.



TIME-OF-SALE INSPECTIONS PROTECTING HOME BUYERS AND SELLERS

TO ASSIST BUYERS and help ensure a smooth sale, all single- and two-family dwellings, condominiums, townhouses and mobile homes are required to have an inspection prior to being listed for sale. The inspection report must be available for review during the time the home is offered for sale. The Time-of-Sale Program provides potential purchasers with information about the condition and code compliance of a dwelling and requires correction of immediate hazards. The evaluator will examine the dwelling’s visible structural elements and other construction components, such as heating, electrical and plumbing systems. Accessible unoccupied areas, such as attics and crawl spaces, will also be viewed. No building components are taken apart during inspection. People preparing to sell their houses may have the inspection performed by a City inspector for \$185 or choose from a list of licensed independent evaluators.

For more information, call 952-563-8930.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TIME OF SALE.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS

LICENSE PLATES ARE CRITICAL NEW CRITICAL HABITAT PLATES OFFERED AT MOTOR VEHICLE

IF YOU LOVE NATURE and want to help protect critical habitats in Minnesota, you can show your support by purchasing one of four new license plates offered at Bloomington Motor Vehicle, 9930 Logan Avenue South. A minimum \$30 yearly contribution to the Reinvest in Minnesota program is required. Money from the fund is used for the acquisition and development of critical fish and wildlife habitats.

Don’t forget Motor Vehicle for all your vehicle licensing needs including: license tab renewal, title transfers, boat, snowmobile and ATV registrations and more. A portion of the fees paid at the Bloomington Motor Vehicles office remains in the community.

Office hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Motor Vehicle at 952-563-8719.



CENSUS COUNTDOWN HELP CREATE A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR COMMUNITY

THERE ARE TWO WAYS to participate in the 2010 Census. The first is to be counted. The U.S. census begins **April 1, 2010**. It is required by law that all U.S. citizens participate. You can also contribute by joining a Complete Count Committee, a group of local community leaders who will help conduct the outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census.

Why should you get involved with the census and be counted? The census shows how many people are living in cities and neighborhoods and dictates future needs for seniors, youth and workers. Based on these census counts, nearly \$300 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. Census data is also used by community service organizations to plan services and obtain funding.

The City of Bloomington Planning Division will be assisting the Census Bureau to ensure that Bloomington address lists are complete and accurate. For more information, visit www.census.gov.



ROOM TO ROAM DISCOVER THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

WHETHER YOU’RE A HIKER, biker, swimmer, golfer, skier, nature lover or playground patron, the regional parks and trails system has something for everyone.

Currently, the regional parks system comprises of 53,000 acres within 49 regional parks, 30 regional trails and six special recreation areas throughout the seven-county metro area. These parks contain lakeshores, wetlands, hardwood forests, native prairies and groundwater recharging areas. The Regional Parks Foundation has plans to expand the current regional park system to nearly 70,000

acres, including seven new regional parks. The expansion would quadruple the trail system – from 170 miles of trails open to the public today to 877 miles by 2030.

The new Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities was founded in 2008 to raise funds to acquire parcels of land for regional open spaces, trails or park reserves and to support stewardship efforts and community awareness.

For more information, call Bloomington Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8876 or visit www.rpftc.org.